

Legislative Reference Service

THRU WEEK ENDING 4/21/05

NO. 4

CODE ENFORCEMENT

H-5501 LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION (Trillo & Others) This act would reduce the penalty for property owners who fail to abate lead hazards from a felony to a misdemeanor; from a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$20,000 to a fine not more than \$1,000, and would implement a training program for landlords and tenants. Corporations

H-5653 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS (SanBento & Malik) This act would permit child day care programs to operate in an elementary school without the necessity of a separate fire, building, or radon inspection certificate. H.E.W.

H-5880 LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION (McManus & Loughlin) This act would delay the implementation of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act until July 1, 2006. Corporations

H-5987 MECHANICAL TRADES (Singleton) This act would remove enforcement powers from the members of the mechanical board. Labor

H-6083 CARPENTRY INSPECTORS (Diaz & Others) This act would require carpentry inspectors to have a minimum of 5 years experience in the field of carpentry. Labor

H-6142 STATE BUILDING CODE (Carter) This act would include 3-family dwellings in the section applicable to one and two (2) family dwellings, which

requirement would be consistent with the fire safety code, general provision, Section 23-28.1-2. Corporations

H-6147 BUILDING PERMIT FEES (Carter) This act would eliminate the additional fee imposed by municipalities on each building permit applicant. Corporations

H-6215 BUILDING PERMIT FEES (Carter & Others) This act would mandate a 50% reduction of a building permit fee if not issued within 15 calendar days after examination of an application. This act would further mandate that a permit automatically issue with no fee if not issued after 25 calendar days after examination of an application. Corporations

H-6369 LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION (Lima & Others) This act would delay the implementation of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act until December 31, 2005. Placed on House Calendar

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

H-5513 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Gallison & Others) This act would authorize cities and towns to appropriate money for charter public schools located therein. Finance

H-5516 SCHOOL AID (Story & Others) This act would provide for the reimbursement of extraordinary services to school districts. Finance

H-5520 SCHOOL HOUSING AID (Menard & Others) This act would increase state aid for new construction/expansion for school districts that experience at least 4% increase in enrollment for 3 consecutive years. Finance

H-5524 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT BUS PASSES (Slater & Others) This act would mandate that the public transit authority issue free bus passes to all public high school students. Finance

H-5530 SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS (Menard & Others) This act would incorporate and codify recommendations from the Rhode Island Department of Education to provide for the financing of school capital projects by capital lease agreements. Finance

H-5543 FIREARMS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS (Sullivan & Others) This act would establish criminal penalties for the unlawful discharge of a firearm on school grounds. Judiciary

H-5560 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Gallison & Others) This act would require that the Board of Regents hold a public hearing in those instances wherein the board grants a charter to establish a new charter public school over the objections of the local school committee. The hearing would be held in the district in which the proposed charter school would be located. H.E.W.

H-5563 SCHOOL HEALTH AND WELLNESS (McNamara & Others) This act would require school districts receiving state education aid to include in their strategic plans strategies to decrease obesity and to improve health and wellness of students through nutrition, physical activity, and education. The act would also require school committees to establish school health and wellness subcommittees to promote health and physical education in the schools. H.E.W.

H-5568 SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMS (McNamara & Others) This act would expand municipal school health programs by requiring such programs to include policies dealing with physical education and nutrition. These policies would include, but not be limited to, the prohibition of carbonated soda and high-fat and/or high sugar snack vending machines. H.E.W.

H-5652 TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL PUPILS (SanBento & Malik) This act would require all public school districts to transport school children to and from child care facilities located within that school district's boundaries. H.E.W.

H-5654 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS (Savage & Others) This act would provide that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education plan, develop, create and implement a statewide system of transportation of students with special needs. H.E.W.

H-5656 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS (SanBento & Malik) This act would enable a child care program to become licensed if in a public school building being utilized as an elementary school. H.E.W.

H-5716 SCHOOL COMMITTEES: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (McManus & Others) This act would provide that no collective bargaining agreement between a city/town and any labor organization nor any employment contract with any individual employed by a school department shall become effective unless and until ratified by the city/town council. Labor

H-5732 TEXTBOOKS (Winfield & Others) This act would require the commissioner of education to publish the annual list of textbooks in use in the public schools not later than March 1st of each year, require that the books on the list remain on the list for five consecutive years, if available, and allow schools to submit their book orders not later than July 1st of each year. The act would also require school committees to pay for consumable textbooks. H.E.W.

H-5735 HEALTH AND SAFETY PUPILS (Caprio & Gemma) This act would prohibit local regulation that would not allow students with diabetes to possess and administer glucose monitoring tests and insulin delivery systems. H.E.W.

H-5737 KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE (Winfield) This act would permit school districts to make exceptions and allow students who have not met the minimum age requirements to attend kindergarten and first grade on a case-by-case basis. The act would also direct school departments to promulgate rules and regulations for determining how and when to make such exceptions for kindergarten, and would also allow, but would not require, school districts to obtain review of these rules and regulations from the Department of Education. H.E.W.

H-5738 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Gallison & Others) This act would make the general powers and duties of school committees binding on charter public schools. H.E.W.

H-5744 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (Diaz & Others) This act would require that children attend school until 17 years of age. H.E.W.

H-5745 CHARTER SCHOOLS (Crowley) This act would remove the current moratorium prohibiting the Board of Regents from granting final approval for any new charter schools to begin operations in the 2005-2006 year. H.E.W.

H-5746 SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS (Crowley & Lewiss) This act would set out specific responsibilities of school committees and superintendents. H.E.W.

H-5747 TEACHERS' TENURE (Crowley & Lewiss) This act would change the date that a notice of dismissal of a tenured teacher in continuous service must be given by the governing body of a school to the teacher from on or before March 1st to June 1st of the school year immediately preceding the school year in which the dismissal is to be effective. H.E.W.

H-5748 CIVICS EDUCATION (Story & Others) This act would direct the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a curriculum in civics education. H.E.W.

H-5749 MUNICIPAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (Sullivan & Others) A joint resolution creating a special joint commission to study the financing of necessary repair and renovation for municipal educational facilities. H.E.W.

H-5792 SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATIONS (Crowley & Others) This act would establish tax credits for contributions to scholarship organizations. Finance

H-5814 SCHOOL BUDGETS (Crowley & Lewiss) This act would authorize school committees to seek arbitration in the event of a negative vote by an appropriating authority. The act would also delete certain language authorizing school committees to bring an action in Superior Court in the event of such a negative vote. H.E.W.

H-5834 SCHOOL BOOKS (McManus & Amaral) This act would exempt from sales taxes any books purchased by or for students in grades kindergarten through 12 if purchased at that student's school. Finance

H-5839 SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS (Kilmartin) This act would require school districts to submit corrective action plans if the auditor conducting the audit expresses an opinion that is other than unqualified. Finance

H-5842 SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS (Kilmartin) This act would provide that, in the event of an audit of a school department, the Auditor General would select the auditor if the audit is not performed by the Office of the Auditor General. This act would further provide that audits would not be paid by the school committee, and that, if a city/town is required to increase its school funding as a result of a court decision, the cost of the audit would be paid by the city/town, and that, if a school's petition is denied, the school would bear the cost of the audit. Finance

H-5899 SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS (Kilmartin) This act would add school districts to the requirement that each year a detailed post audit of financial records occur, and that all information obtained would be released to the Rhode Island Auditor General. H.E.W.

H-5942 TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Amaral & Others) This act would direct the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a statewide teacher evaluation program for all certifications. H.E.W.

H-5953 SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS (Smith) This act would add licensing requirements for school mental health specialists to the provisions of the general law which regulate psychologists. H.E.W.

H-6016 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL INVESTMENT FUND (Smith) This act would provide funds for alternative school programs for public school students chronically subject to suspension. Finance

H-6049 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM (Smith) This act would establish an Alternative School Pilot Program to be adopted by the Board of Regents of Elementary and Secondary Education and the local school committees for the purpose of educating children who have been expelled from school or have otherwise been determined to be unsuitable for attendance at a regular school. H.E.W

H-6050 SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (Smith) This act would require school districts to employ one full-time speech language pathologist for every 40 students receiving speech language services. H.E.W.

H-6053 TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR CERTIFICATIONS (Smith) This act would amend the composition and the duties of the Rhode Island Certification standards board. It would remove the status of advisory from the policy advisory board on teacher and administrator certification. H.E.W.

H-6054 SCHOOL NURSES (Melo & Others) This act would eliminate any requirement for a registered nurse seeking employment as a school nurse to also be a certified teacher. H.E.W.

H-6085 TEACHERS' TENURE (Corvese) This act would change the date that a notice of dismissal of a tenured teacher in continuous service must be given by the governing body of a school to the teacher from on or before March 1st to June 1st of the school year immediately preceding the school year in which the dismissal is to be effective. Labor

H-6086 SCHOOL COMMITTEES: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (Corvese) This act would provide that no collective bargaining agreement between a city/town and any labor organization nor any employment contract with any individual employed by a school department shall become effective unless and until ratified by the city/town council. Labor

H-6119 TEACHER LAYOFFS (Jackson & Others) This act would move the statutory deadline for teacher layoff notices from March 1st to June 1st of each year. H.E.W.

H-6120 SCHOOL BUDGETS (Ucci) This act would authorize school committees to seek arbitration in the event of a negative vote by an appropriating authority. The act would also delete certain language authorizing school committees to bring an action in Superior Court in the event of such a negative vote. H.E.W.

H-6151 SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS (Kilmartin) This act would add school districts to the requirement that each year a detailed post audit of financial records occur, and that all information obtained would be released to the Rhode Island Auditor General. Finance

H-6152 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Smith) This act would require each school district to adopt a plan to create an alternative education program to educate students who are removed from the classroom because of a suspension of more than 10 days or who are chronically truant. H.E.W.

H-6154 KINDERGARTEN PLUS INCENTIVE FUND (Lima & Others) This act would establish the Kindergarten Plus Incentive Fund. This money would be used to fund summer instruction programs for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students and professional development programs for teachers. Finance

H-6177 SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS (Long & Others) This act would provide reimbursement to all city/town school bus drivers who are required to pay a toll for use of the Newport Bridge in the transport of students. Finance

H-6178 SCHOOL BUS DISTRICTS (Long & Others) This act would require the state to reimburse local school committees for the entire cost of transportation of pupils to another city/town as required by state law. This act would also require the Director of the Department of Education to determine the appropriate formula for reimbursement. Finance

H-6194 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (Lima & Others) This act would amend the law to require parents or guardians to respond to school notices regarding the absences of students over the age of 16. If the parent or guardian fails to respond the school would be authorized to withdraw the student. H.E.W.

H-6231 SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITS (Ucci) This act would provide that, upon the bringing of a court action to increase school appropriations, an audit of the school department and municipality shall be conducted, and the result of such audit would be paid for by the school committee and the municipality. H.E.W.

H-6277 ATHLETIC COACHES (Kilmartin) This act would ban the sale of certain dietary supplements to minors, and would also prohibit athletic coaches from distributing or promoting use of any performance-enhancing dietary supplement. H.E.W.

H-6278 SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS (Corvese) This act would set out specific responsibilities of school committees and superintendents. H.E.W.

H-6300 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES (Scott & Others) This act would permit all public school department employees to reside outside of the city/town of employment. H.E.W.

H-6340 ATHLETIC COACHES (Kilmartin) This act would require the Department of Health to develop a list of performance-enhancing dietary supplements, and would also require coaches to complete a coaching education program regarding performance-enhancing dietary supplements. This act would also prohibit coaches from distributing or promoting the use of any performance-enhancing dietary supplement. H.E.W.

H-6344 STATE EDUCATION MANDATES (McCauley) This act would provide that no new state mandate would be issued without adequate funding by and from the state. Finance

H-6346 SCHOOL HOUSING AID (McCauley) This act would provide that the percent of state aid for school housing costs would be 100% for any community in which the student population exceeds 20,000 students. Finance

S-985 ATHLETIC COACHES (Tassoni & Others) This act would require the Department of Health to develop a list of performance-enhancing dietary

supplements, and would also require coaches to complete a coaching education program regarding performance-enhancing dietary supplements. This act would also prohibit coaches from distributing or promoting the use of any performance-enhancing dietary supplement. Health & Human Services

ELECTIONS

H-5500 MAIL BALLOTS (Lewiss & Others) This act would require that applications for emergency mail ballots be received by 4:00 p.m. on the day prior to the election or primary, and that the Secretary of State forward names of persons subject to felony convictions to local boards. This act would further remove certain requirements for delivery of paper voter applications to the Secretary of State, and would provide for modification to the form of mail ballots. Corporations

H-5506 MAIL BALLOTS (Lewiss & Others) This act would permit a voter outside the United States who is applying for a mail ballot to use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Corporations

H-5578 FIRE DISTRICT MEETINGS (Moran) This act would allow individuals who own property within the fire district to vote at fire district meetings whether or not that person resides within the district. Corporations

H-5752 MAIL BALLOTS (Lewiss & Others) This act would allow mail ballots to be filed electronically and would eliminate the prescribed form for those voters residing outside the United States. Corporations

H-5753 REGISTRATION VOTERS (Lewiss & Others) This act would provide for the use of post office boxes for purposes of acknowledgement of registration or change of address and verification of residence in those cases wherein the prospective voter does not receive home mail delivery service, but rather receives mail at a U.S. post office box. Corporations

H-5754 REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (Lewiss & Others) This act would provide for consistent formatting and electronic transmission of voter registration information when a voter registers at the Division of Motor Vehicles or another state agency. Corporations

H-5863 MAIL BALLOTS (Slater & Others) This act would require that all mail ballots cast by confined persons be witnessed by state supervisors. Corporations

H-5888 POLITICAL SIGNS (Slater & Others) This act would regulate political signs, i.e., no signs on business or commercial property; no signs on residential property without written permission of owner; and signs may not be posted and erected until 60 days before the election and must be removed within 14 days after. Judiciary

H-5976 PROCEDURE FOR VOTING (Story & Others) This act would require every person, before they receive their ballot, to produce either one form of identification with their name and address and photograph, or two forms of identification that bear the name and address of that person. Judiciary

H-5978 BALLOT QUESTION ADVOCACY (Lima) This act would create the Rhode Island Ballot Question Advocacy and Reporting Act. Judiciary

H-5980 POLITICAL LITERATURE AND INFLUENCE (Lima) This act would provide that each city/town board of canvassers identify the 50-foot demarcation within which political literature and influence is prohibited. Judiciary

H-6069 RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS (Almeida & Others) This act would provide that a person who has lost the right to vote upon a felony conviction would have the right restored when that person is discharged from incarceration. Judiciary

H-6072 TABULATION AND CERTIFICATION OF RETURNS (Lima) This act would permit the State Board of Elections to feed ballots into its computer counters within 2 days prior to an election or primary. The feeding of ballots shall not be tallied until after the close of the polls on the primary or election day. Judiciary

H-6074 POLLING OR SURVEYING OF VOTER OPINION (Lima & Lewiss) This act would provide that it is the responsibility of the Board of Canvassers to clearly identify the 50 foot perimeter of any entrance to a building in which voting is being conducted by the placement of flags, markers, or any other clear demarcation. Judiciary

H-6075 CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS (Lima & Lewiss) This act would authorize the presence of representatives of persons who appear on the ballot who do not belong to either the Republican or Democratic parties. The amendment would also clarify the type of conduct that is prohibited in the voting area. Judiciary

H-6078 TAMPERING WITH SAMPLE BALLOT (Slater & Others) This act would prohibit publishing or distributing any sample ballot which has altered or deleted any candidate's name or information. Judiciary

ENVIRONMENT

H-5496 SOLID WASTE (Sullivan & Others) This act would require any entity engaged in the business of collecting and disposing solid waste, which deposits the waste at the central landfill, to certify in writing every 30 days that such waste was not generated or collected outside the territorial limits of Rhode Island, setting forth the date and time of each deposit within the 30-day period. Corporations

H-5768 REFUSE DISPOSAL (Corvese & Others) This act would exclude regulated medical waste as defined in Chapter 23-18.9 of the General Laws from the definition of solid waste. Corporations

H-5889 COYOTE MANAGEMENT (Ginaitt & Others) This chapter would provide for the management of coyote populations based on best practices appropriate to diverse localities and conditions. Judiciary

H-5989 CESSPOOL PHASE-OUT ACT (Long & Ehrhardt) This act would create a new chapter to phase-out many cesspools currently in use in the state. Environment & Natural Resources

H-5992 DAM MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS (Long & Moffitt) This act would authorize cities and towns of the state to adopt ordinances creating management districts for dams, the boundaries of which may include all or part of a city/town as specified by the ordinance. Environment & Natural Resources

H-5994 PUBLIC DRINKING WATER (Rose & Others) This act would require that any sampling, monitoring, test result or laboratory analysis of a public water system which indicates that the drinking water may not be safe and potable shall

be reported concurrently to the system and the director of health. Environment & Natural Resources

H-6027 TIPPING FEES (Handy & Others) This act would require the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation to initiate a recommendation to change the tipping fees schedule of the Central Landfill. Finance

H-6091 DRINKING WATER PROTECTION (Ajello & Others) This act would restore Section 46-15.3-7.5 of the General Laws to the pre 2002 amendment language. Environment & Natural Resources

H-6115 ELECTRONIC WASTE (Handy & Others) This act would create the “Electronic Waste Producer Responsibility Act” which would establish procedures and regulatory authority for the disposal of electronic waste material. Environment & Natural Resources

H-6192 REFUSE DISPOSAL (Jacquard) This act would amend the Rhode Island Refuse Disposal Act to include provisions regarding beneficial reuse material. Corporations

H-6323 UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT (Coderre & Others) This act would reconfigure the members of the review board to comply with separation of powers, and would outline certain duties that they must perform. Separation of Powers

H-6327 NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION (Almeida & Others) This act would allow the Narragansett Bay Commission to acquire sanitary and combined sewer systems from municipalities within its district as may be necessary to carry out its duties. Finance

H-6370 SEAWEED (Ginaitt) This act would provide that seaweed collected by a municipality and removed from a state beach would be deemed “yard waste” for purposes of receipt by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation. Environment & Natural Resources

FINANCE AND TAXATION

H-5497 BANKING OFFENSES (Menard & Winfield) This act would require regulated institutions, unless they have reason to doubt the validity of the transaction, to cash checks and conduct other banking transactions in amounts not exceeding \$1,000 involving municipal, state or federal funds upon presentation of a duly authorized Rhode Island identification card or a picture identification card issued by the Department of Elderly Affairs or an operator's or chauffeur's license. Corporations

H-5526 EXEMPTION OR STABILIZING OF TAXES (Jacquard) This act would provide that any city/town which provides an exemption or stabilization of taxes prepare and publicly release an analysis of the impact of the proposed project receiving the exemption prior to determining if the tax relief will be granted. Finance

H-5532 VETERANS' EXEMPTIONS (Singleton & Others) This act would add veterans of the ongoing Mideast Conflicts and those called to active duty for internal security after September 11, 2001, to those who are entitled to veterans' exemptions. Veterans' Affairs

H-5578 FIRE DISTRICT MEETINGS (Moran) This act would allow individuals who own property within the fire district to vote at fire district meetings whether or not that person resides within the district. Corporations

H-5598 ASSESSMENT AT FULL AND FAIR CASH VALUE (Mumford & Others) This act would provide that real property subject to taxation would be assessed at its full and fair cash value, and that tangible property would be assessed according to a specific classification table. Finance

H-5608 HOTEL TAX: TIME-SHARE (Jackson & Others) This act would impose the 5% hotel surtax on time-share use. Finance

H-5633 TRUSTS AND HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (Lewiss & Others) This act would clarify that the homestead exemption from attachment extends to persons occupying the subject premises as life tenants or as beneficiaries of a trust that owns the subject property. In addition, this act would provide that a tax exemption created by a public law or municipal ordinance would not be affected by a transfer of the remainder interest or transfer to a trust. Judiciary

H-5678 TAX EXEMPTIONS (Lewiss & Others) This act would provide that a tax exemption created by either the general laws and/or a public law or municipal ordinance would not be affected by the transfer of property to a revocable living trust. Finance

H-5780 DEFERMENT OF PAYMENT OF TAXES (Kilmartin) This act would permit cities and towns to defer a portion of property taxes for 20-year residents over 65 years of age. Those taxes so deferred would operate as a lien upon the real estate. Finance

H-5825 REAL ESTATE EVALUATION ASSESSMENTS (Schadone) This act would change the current schedule for the required reevaluation of municipal real estate for assessment purposes so that reevaluation would be required every 8 years not the current 9 years, and updated 4 years from the last reevaluation not the current 3 years. Finance

H-5826 PERSONAL INCOME TAX (Slater & Others) This act would impose an additional tax of 1% on taxable income from \$200,000 to \$300,000 and an additional tax of 2% on taxable income over \$300,000, and would provide that the proceeds received in connection with such taxes be applied by the state for educational and property tax relief. Finance

H-5828 TAX SALES (SanBento) This act would amend certain provisions relative to tax sales. Finance

H-5836 INDEBTEDNESS OF TOWNS AND CITIES (Landroche) This act would clarify and expand the criteria for the issuance of bonds for cities and towns. Finance

H-5840 LEVY CAP (Kilmartin) This act would require that municipalities not exceed the 5 ½% levy over the prior year's tax levy without certification of the Auditor General and examination of all line items in the budget. Finance

H-5843 LEVY CAP (Kilmartin) This act would allow a city/town, when confronted with an emergency which requires a tax increase, to increase the levy. The levy would not be allowed to be carried over in the next fiscal budget. Finance

H-6020 TAX SALES (Almeida & Others) This act would provide that when a property is residential, contains less than four units, and is subject to a tax sale the RIHMFC would have the right of first refusal to acquire the tax lien. Finance

H-6022 REAL ESTATE TIME-SHARE ACT (Jackson & Others) This act would permit the taxation of time-share developments based on the combined individual time-share estates. Finance

H-6023 HOTEL TAX (Slater & Others) This act would create the Rhode Island Tourism Development Corporation which shall coordinate the expenditure of funds generated through the state hotel tax. This act would also direct a portion of the hotel tax to the corporation for use in statewide tourism promotion efforts, and would place all tax collection responsibility with the Division of Taxation. Finance

H-6026 STAY OF COLLECTION (Moran & Ucci) This act would permit a taxpayer to seek a stay in Superior Court in connection with an appeal for relief from assessment. Finance

H-6035 LOCAL MEALS AND BEVERAGE TAX (Malik & Others) This act would provide for cities and towns, where meals and beverages are subjected to a one percent meal and beverage tax, to receive two percent of the total sales tax collected. Finance

H-6095 TAXPAYER'S RELIEF ACT OF 2005 (Davey & Others) This act would make changes to retirement benefits, would increase municipal oversight over school budgets, would address state education mandates, would specify management rights in the public sector, and would require public sector employees to share in health care expenses. Finance

H-6175 VETERANS' EXEMPTION (Carter & Others) This act would grant veteran property exemptions to veterans who served in enumerated areas, task forces, operations or who received certain medals. Veterans' Affairs

H-6180 HISTORIC RESIDENCE: TAX CREDITS (Malik) This act would provide historic commercial structures with tax credits that are currently only given to residences. Finance

H-6200 FUEL TAXES (Pacheco) A house resolution respectfully requesting that the Governor of the State of Rhode Island exempt Rhode Island's cities and towns from paying all fuel taxes. Finance

H-6220 DEFINITION OF "DISABLED" (Sullivan & Others) This act would change the definition of "disabled" for those persons entitled to property tax relief to also include those receiving veterans' disability benefits. Finance

H-6238 TAX EXEMPTIONS: EDC (Almeida & Others) This act would provide that for any tax exemption or stabilization granted by any city/town after July 1, 2005, in which the EDC is a participant, the city/town would be entitled to a 50% reimbursement from the state for all taxes exempted. Finance

H-6239 EXEMPTION OR STABILIZING OF TAXES (Slater & Others) This act would expand the right of a municipality to foreclose on the rights of redemption of unimproved land, would broaden the exemption or stabilization of taxes on property that has undergone environmental remediation, and would broaden the definition of “blighted and substandard areas”. Finance

H-6243 LIMITATIONS ON TOTAL TAXES ASSESSED (Trillo & Others) This act would create a new section providing that cities and towns limit total taxes assessed by providing that the amount be determined by the voters of that city/town. Finance

H-6309 EXEMPTION OR STABILIZING OF TAXES (Slater & Others) This act would expand the right of a municipality to foreclose on the rights of redemption of unimproved land, would broaden the exemption or stabilization of taxes on property that has undergone environmental remediation, and would broaden the definition of “blighted and substandard areas”. Finance

H-6326 EXEMPTION OR STABILIZING OF TAXES ON PROPERTY (Almeida & Others) This act would provide that for any tax exemption or stabilization granted by any city/town after July 1, 2005, in which the EDC is a participant, the city/town would be entitled to a 50% reimbursement from the state for all taxes exempted. Finance

H-6345 TAX LIENS (McCauley) This act would require real estate closing attorney/officer to collect and remit the full balance amount itemized on the lien certificate to the appropriate municipality or fire district to obtain a discharge of the lien. Finance

H-6347 COLLECTION OF TAXES (McCauley) This act would make technical changes to the names of the parties to tax collection law suits. Finance

H-6348 REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX (McCauley) This act would raise the conveyance tax rate on property transferal, and would change the formula for distribution. Finance

H-6349 TAX LIENS AND TAX TITLES IN BULK (Williams & Others) This act would clarify the procedure for bulk sales of tax liens and tax titles and would repeal prior law inconsistent therewith. Finance

H-6380 TAX LIENS AND TAX TITLES (Almeida & Others) This act would authorize the bulk sales of tax liens and tax titles to any entity created by a city/town and Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation. It would also authorize cities and towns to jointly establish, with Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, a corporation to acquire and service tax liens and tax titles. Finance

S-984 DISTRESSED COMMUNITIES RELIEF FUND (Montalbano & Others) This act would provide that any community which falls into the lowest 21% of at least 3 of 4 distress indices shall be eligible to receive assistance from the state's Distressed Communities Relief Fund. Finance

S-1014 RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE CLASSIFICATION (Breene & Blais) This act would allow any city/town to adopt a separate tax classification for unimproved residentially zoned real property. Commerce, Housing & Municipal Government

HOUSING

H-5581 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Menard & Others) This act would allow cities and towns to count Section 8 housing in their calculations to determine if the city or town has met the quota of housing considered to be low to moderate income housing. Corporations

H-5586 LOW AND MODERATE INCOMING HOUSING (Lima & Others) This act would expand the sources of available funding for public agencies, nonprofit organizations, limited equity housing cooperatives or private developers pursuant to the development of low and moderate income housing. Corporations

H-5793 SHELTER TO HOUSING PROGRAMS (Slater & Others) This act would create a program designed to move homeless individuals and families from homeless shelters to rental housing. The program would be administered by the Office of Homelessness and Emergency Assistance within the Housing Resources Commission. Finance

H-6036 LOW INCOME HOUSING (McCauley) This act would reduce the taxation applicable to qualifying low income housing and make such taxation applicable to residential properties issued occupancy permits, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Finance

H-6166 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Long & Others) This act would require that the calculation of the number of low and moderate income housing units include the 5-year average number of Section 8 family units. Corporations

LABOR RELATIONS

H-5601 CERTIFIED SCHOOL TEACHERS' ARBITRATION (Lewiss & Others) This act would remove the \$5,000 cap on the payment of mediation expenses by the state pertaining to unresolved issues that are submitted to compulsory mediation between the negotiating or bargaining agent and the school committee. Finance

H-5650 EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS (Moura & Others) This act would repeal certain provisions regarding employment of women and children. It eliminates language concerning permits and badges, and the involvement of school principals and police officers. Labor

H-5659 SCHOOL COMMITTEES: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS (McManus & Others) This act would require that any collective bargaining contract entered into by the school committee be ratified by the city or town council. Labor

H-5719 UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES (Kilmartin) This act would broaden the jurisdiction of the Labor Relations Board to consider and address unfair labor practices that have also been filed as grievances under a collective bargaining agreement. Labor

H-5720 FIREFIGHTERS' ARBITRATION (Moura & Faria) This act would require that the rights or benefits conferred on employees by an expiring collective bargaining agreement would continue until a new agreement is ratified. Labor

H-5721 ARBITRATION OF LABOR CONTROVERSIES (Moura & Faria) This act would allow a labor arbitrator to consider the existence of past practice when the

union contract contains a provision that preserves existing rights, benefits or practices between the parties. Labor

H-5850 PREVAILING WAGE RATES (Moura) This act would include rights and remedies for nonpayment of wages in posters posted on public works projects. Labor

H-5856 PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT (Moura) This act would permit the discretionary use of project labor agreements by public entities on public work projects in this state. Labor

H-5859 PREVAILING WAGES (Moura) This act would require any contractor who is awarded a public works contract after July 1, 2005 to ascertain the prevailing wage rate and make the necessary adjustments. Labor

H-5860 DEFINITION OF “EMPLOYEE” (Moura) This act would slightly change the definition of employees as contained in the Labor Relations Act. Labor

H-6084 SCHOOL TEACHERS’ ARBITRATION (Corvese) This act would allow designated representatives to attend mediation or arbitration. Labor

H-6118 PREVAILING WAGE (Jackson & Long) This act would raise the threshold for municipal projects which require a prevailing wage pay rate from \$1,000 to \$100,000. Labor

H-6165 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS (Moura) This act would establish bidding requirements for contractors bidding on public works contracts. Labor

LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSES

H-5576 RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES (Lewiss) This act would extend from 90 days to 365 days the time in which a licensee shall comply with regulations. House Calendar

H-5683 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES (Lewiss & Others) This act would prohibit a licensee from obtaining a stay of a revocation, suspension or nonrenewal of a liquor license if the basis of the revocation, suspension or nonrenewal was the conviction of the licensee of the manufacture, sale or distribution of a controlled substance. Finance

H-5757 PREMISE LIABILITY INSURANCE (Caprio) This act would require all establishments which have liquor licenses, except manufacturers and wholesalers, to maintain premise liability in an amount of \$500,000. Corporations

H-5759 SUNDAY BUSINESS (Kilmartin) This act would provide that retail establishments, unless exempted, would not be open on Christmas but could be open on Sundays and other holidays. Corporations

H-5774 HAWKERS AND PEDDLERS (Kennedy & Others) This act would prohibit licensed hawkers and peddlers from selling or offering to sell any single items having a retail value in excess of \$300. Corporations

H-6145 CLASS C LICENSES (Costantino & Moura) This act would make technical amendments to the Sunday liquor sales statute, and would allow a Class C licensee to open on Sunday with the written approval of the local board of license. Corporations

H-6214 GOLF COURSES – SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (Lewiss) This act would permit golf clubs which have a Class D license to sell alcoholic beverages from mobile wagons or carts. Corporations

H-6221 MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAMS (Faria) This act would increase the fee for a license in martial arts to \$150. It would also require that, before a license is issued for a martial arts school, all instructors and employees must undergo a BCI check. Corporations

H-6236 SUNDAY BUSINESS (Costantino & Others) This act would permit motor vehicle dealers to open for business on Sundays. Finance

H-6249 CLASS A LIQUOR LICENSE (Flaherty & Kennedy) This act would provide that a holder of a Class A license would not be limited from providing ATM machines on its premises. Corporations

H-6250 CLASS A LIQUOR LICENSES (Flaherty & Kennedy) This act would permit a holder of retail Class A license to conduct wine and beer sampling with or without wholesaler or supplier participation, would delete the requirement that only eight tasting events be allowed monthly, and would require training for the dispenser of alcoholic beverages. Corporations

H-6334 BINGO GAME (Kilmartin) This act would increase the total prize award allowed in any one night at bingo games authorized under G.L. 11-19 from \$6,050 to \$62,000. Judiciary

H-6341 LICENSES (McCauley) This act would provide that a fine imposed for a first offense would not exceed \$1,000, and a fine imposed for each subsequent offense would not exceed \$2,000. Corporations

H-6342 CLASS N NIGHTCLUB LICENSE (Williams & Others) This act would eliminate the requirement of a second cover charge to gain reentry or readmittance to a Class N nightclub. Corporations

PLANNING AND ZONING

H-5579 ZONING ORDINANCES (San Bento) This act would amend the definition of “Family Day Care Home” and provide a definition for “Family Group Day Care Home” as they pertain to municipal zoning ordinances. Corporations

H-5865 ZONING ORDINANCES: DEVELOPABLE LAND (San Bento & Jacquard) This act would amend existing zoning ordinance definitions to clarify the standards and calculations by which the amount of developable land is determined. Corporations

H-5995 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPEALS BOARD (Ehrhardt & Others) This act would reduce the membership of the State Comprehensive Plan Appeals Board from 11 to 7 members. This act would provide that the Governor select 6 members and the President of the League of Cities and Towns select one member.
House Separation of Powers

H-6325 ZONING ORDINANCES: ELECTRONIC MAINTENANCE (Almeida & Others) This act would permit the cities and towns to record zoning ordinances and maps in an electronic format. Corporations

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

H-5540 FIREARMS (Moran & Others) This act would make it unlawful for any person to knowingly receive, transport or possess any firearm which has had the importer's or manufacturer's serial number tampered with. This act would also exempt antique and collectable weapons legally possessed by collectors and dealers of firearms. Judiciary

H-5541 IMMIGRATION STATUS PROTECTION ACT (Diaz & Others) This act would restrict state and local law enforcement from ascertaining a person's immigration status. Judiciary

H-5542 PISTOL PERMITS (Amaral & Others) This act would provide that a person possessing a license for a concealed pistol or revolver, issued by another state which grants Rhode Island residents reciprocity with respect to concealed pistol permits, would be considered to have a valid concealed pistol permit in Rhode Island. Judiciary

H-5546 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (Rice & Others) This act would make it a misdemeanor to release a domesticated, diseased or non-indigenous animal in a park, circus, zoo or other such facility. Judiciary

H-5550 ADMINISTRATION OF CHEMICAL TEST (McNamara & Others) This act would allow a peace officer to request a search warrant which would allow the taking of blood, breath or urine, if probable cause exists to believe that an individual has been driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotics. Judiciary

H-5578 FIRE DISTRICT MEETINGS (Moran) This act would allow individuals who own property within the fire district to vote at fire district meetings whether or not that person resides within the district. Corporations

H-5582 FIREFIGHTERS ANNUITIES (Laroche & Others) This act would increase deceased firefighters annuities. Corporations

H-5615 PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATION (Malik & Others) This act would mandate that the Department of Health purchase and distribute automated external defibrillators to public high schools, and to provide training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use. Finance

H-5617 RELIEF OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS (Pacheco) This act would allow a police officer, firefighter, crash rescue crewperson, fire marshal, chief deputy fire marshal or deputy fire marshal to collect a salary when wholly or partially incapacitated during a witnessed and/or unavoidable emergency whether on or off duty. Finance

H-5622 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: REGULATION OF SALES (Malik & Others) This act would clarify the criminal law and penalties for furnishing and procuring alcohol for underage persons. Judiciary

H-5628 UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE (Giannini & DeSimone) This act would establish the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. Judiciary

H-5637 HUNTING AND HUNTING SAFETY (Picard) This act would provide that while hunting no person may possess a rifle larger than a twenty-two (22) caliber rim fire or muzzle loading rifle or a shotgun and shells loaded with ball, bullets, slugs or shot larger than number 2, subject to certain exceptions. Judiciary

H-5639 HUNTING AND HUNTING SAFETY (Picard) This act would provide that while hunting no person may possess a rifle larger than a twenty-two (22) caliber rim fire or muzzle loading rifle or a shotgun and shells loaded with ball, bullets, slugs or shot larger than number 2, subject to certain exceptions. Judiciary

H-5640 UNDERAGE POSSESSION (Lewiss & Others) This act would permit a court to issue an order suspending or revoking an individual's driving license in cases when an underage person possesses alcoholic beverages, and that offense occurs within a motor vehicle. Judiciary

H-5642 DISORDERLY CONDUCT (Kilmartin) This act would create the offense of indecent exposure/disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor offense punishable by imprisonment of not more than one year, or a fine of not more than \$1,000. Judiciary

H-5647 IDENTITY THEFT (Kilmartin & Sullivan) This act would create the identity theft passport card, issued by the Department of the Attorney General, to give victims of identity theft the means to identify themselves as victims of identity theft to city and state agencies, including law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. Judiciary

H-5694 WEAPONS (Moran) This act would permit suspension of any weapon license or permit by the granting authority. Judiciary

H-5697 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Melo & Others) This act would specifically add the following offenses to the lists of crimes named in the “Rhode Island Domestic Violence Act”: Refusal to relinquish or to damage or obstruct a telephone; crank or obscene telephone calls; burglary and unlawful entry; and arson. Judiciary

H-5707 DEATH BENEFITS: POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Ajello & Others) This act would add new language to describe domestic partners to be eligible to collect a death benefit. Judiciary

H-5714 POSSESSION OF FIREARMS BY MINORS (Diaz & Others) This act would make the possession of a firearm by a minor unlawful unless he or she holds a valid permit as authorized by law, or unless the person is in the presence of a parent, guardian, or supervising adult. Judiciary

H-5722 MUNICIPAL POLICE ARBITRATION (Moura & Faria) This act would provide for a continuance of contractual benefits to municipal police personnel in the event that collective bargaining between the municipality and the collective bargaining agent is not resolved within 30 days, and a new contract is not entered into by the parties during the 30 day period. Labor

H-5731 DEFIBRILLATORS (Dennigan & Others) This act would require public swimming pools to have defibrillators available on premises, and an employee qualified in its use. It would further provide immunity from civil damages to those operating the defibrillators. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5785 RELIEF OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE (Moura) This act would allow relief to injured and deceased firefighters and police officers incapacitated or injured during a witnessed and/or unavoidable emergency whether on or off duty.
Finance

H-5812 DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION (Coderre & Others) This act would allow the court to require a defendant to relinquish firearms pursuant to the issuance of a domestic abuse protective order. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5813 DOMESTIC ASSAULT (Coderre & Others) This act would restrict the possession of firearms in cases of domestic violence pursuant to a protective order issued by a court after notice is given to a respondent and a full hearing on a complaint has taken place. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5887 SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRATION (Lally & Others) This act would require disclosure by local police to the general public of information regarding level 2 and level 3 registered sexual offenders as well a notification on the Rhode Island State Police website and the Rhode Island Unified Court System website.

Judiciary

H-5890 REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO CHEMICAL TEST (Ginaitt & Others) This act would increase penalties for refusal to submit to a chemical test. Judiciary

H-5892 WEAPONS (Jacquard & San Bento) This act would exempt certain persons, including those issued protective orders, from the weapons safety requirements of this chapter. Judiciary

H-5898 ACCIDENT REPORTS (Jacquard & San Bento) This act would exempt governmental agency drivers from filing accident reports after motor vehicle accidents. Judiciary

H-5930 REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO CHEMICAL TEST (Long & Amaral) This act would increase penalties for refusal to submit to a chemical test. Judiciary

H-5931 SEAT BELT USE (Story) This act would change a seat belt offense from a secondary violation to a standard primary violation for all persons driving or riding in motor vehicles, and would reduce the fine for violations from \$75 to \$30. Judiciary

H-5933 SEX OFFENDING COUNSELING (Davey & Singleton) This act would impose sex offender counseling in certain circumstances for sex offenders. Judiciary

H-5937 ACCIDENT REPORTS (Davey & Others) This act would increase the minimum damage amounts necessary to require individuals and law enforcement officers to file accident reports from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Judiciary

H-5939 AGGRESSIVE DRIVING (Trillo & Davey) This act would add laned roadway to the definition of aggressive driving. Judiciary

H-5941 INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (Singleton & Amaral) This act would provide law enforcement officials with the authority to obtain noncontent information from internet service providers pursuant to an administrative subpoena authorized by a chief of police, superintendent of state police, or the director of the statewide fugitive task force. Judiciary

H-5957 CARE OF THE ELDERLY (Davey & Others) This act would broaden the purpose of the Citizen's Commission for the Safety and Care of the Elderly to include liaison with public safety officials and the Department of Elderly Affairs. It would also increase the membership from 19 to 21, and would require that each local police chief and fire chief designate at least one police officer or firefighter to serve as senior citizen police advocate. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5965 UNIFORM COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE ACT (Long & Ehrhardt) This act would amend several sections of the Uniform Commercial Driver's License Act and other motor vehicle sections. Corporations

H-5988 LIE DETECTOR TESTS (Long) This act would allow lie detector tests to be administered by law enforcement agencies to persons applying for employment as a law enforcement officer. Labor

H-6051 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (Carter & Laroche) This act would add one member to the ambulance service coordinating advisory board. Health, Education & Welfare

H-6052 MEDICAL MARIJUANA (Slater & Others) This act would protect patients with debilitating medical conditions, and their physicians and primary caregivers, from arrest and prosecution, criminal and other penalties, and property forfeiture if such patients engage in the medical use of marijuana. Health, Education & Welfare

H-6057 DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DeSimone & Others) This act would make it a felony for anyone to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence with a person under the age of 16. Judiciary

H-6059 ARRESTS (Almeida & Slater) This act would add various procedures relative to the manner in which "photo lineups" and "live lineups" are conducted by municipal and state police forces. Judiciary

H-6060 ARRESTS (Almeida) This act would set forth new procedures, as mandated by the United States and Rhode Island supreme courts, for conducting police lineups after the arrest of an individual, in order to improve the accuracy and reliability of eyewitness identifications. Judiciary

H-6071 ARRESTS (Almeida & Others) This act would require the electronic recording of custodial interrogations in their entirety in cases where the potential sentence is one of life imprisonment. Judiciary

H-6097 SAFETY BELT USE (Landroche & Others) This act would provide that an adult's failure to wear a safety belt while operating a motor vehicle or his or her failure to ensure that adult passengers are wearing a safety belt would constitute a primary, rather than a secondary offense. Judiciary

H-6103 STUDENT INTERROGATIONS (Ajello & Others) This act would set up a notification scheme to require a parent to be present before any law enforcement questioning of minors or, if a parent is unable to be contacted, then another designated adult. The act would provide exceptions to the notice requirement under exigent circumstances. Judiciary

H-6123 FIRE HYDRANTS (Slater & Others) This act would increase the penalty for interfering with or bypassing certain utility meters and fire hydrants, including "dry" fire hydrants, so-called, from a misdemeanor to a felony. Judiciary

H-6130 MUNICIPAL POLICE: INCENTIVE PAY (Jackson & Others) This act would remove the obligation that municipalities reimburse their police officers for expenses incurred in the successful completion of courses required to receive incentive salary step credits. Finance

H-6146 UNIFORM COMMERCIAL DRIVERS' LICENSE ACT (Carter) This act would allow firefighters with 5 or more years of driving experience, who have completed a safety course, to be exempt from the commercial motor vehicle road test requirements. Corporations

H-6162 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES (Rice & Others) This act would relocate the provisions of the general laws addressing confidentiality for victims of domestic violence and hate crimes, and expand their coverage to apply to interactions with the state, in addition to the voting rights protected under the current statute. Judiciary

H-6234 CRIMINAL OFFENSES (Diaz & Almeida) This act would define the crime of prostitution and define the crime of permitting prostitution. Judiciary

H-6235 HYDRANT TAMPERING (Moura) This act would create mandatory minimum and maximum fine penalties for interfering, tampering or damaging any fire hydrant belonging to any public waterworks or water service owned and furnished by any city, town, water district, fire district, or any other municipal or

quasi-municipal corporation and “dry hydrants” constructed and maintained by a fire company or district. This act would not apply to any person who is under the age of 18. Judiciary

H-6246 WEAPONS (Ajello & Others) This act would expand the definition of a stun gun to include a taser gun, one that imparts an electrical shock. Judiciary

H-6303 HYDRANT TAMPERING (Slater) This act would create mandatory minimum fine penalties and would increase maximum fine penalties for interfering, tampering or damaging any fire hydrant belonging to any public waterworks or water service owned and furnished by any city, town, water or fire district, or any other municipal or quasi-municipal corporation, and “dry hydrants” constructed and maintained by any fire company or district. Judiciary

H-6305 WEAPONS (Diaz & Others) This act would add definitions of “ammunition”, “assault weapon”, “large capacity feeding device”, “semiautomatic” and “shotgun” to the chapter on weapons, and would make it unlawful to sell, transfer or possess any assault weapons or a large capacity feeding device. Judiciary

H-6315 TRAFFIC VIOLATION MONITORING SYSTEMS (McCauley & Others) This act would create the Rhode Island Automated Traffic Violation Monitoring System Act of 2005. Finance

H-6322 CRIMINAL OFFENSES (Almeida & Others) This act would define the crime of prostitution and define the crime of permitting prostitution. Judiciary

RETIREMENT

H-5525 DISABILITY BENEFITS (Landroche & Laroche) This act would increase from 100% to 150% the amount of wages a person receiving disability retirement benefits earns in another occupation in the calculation of the amount of the retirement benefits. Finance

H-5557 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT: POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Landroche) This act would amend the provisions for determination by a city or town of a police officer’s or firefighter’s disability for purposes of retirement, by adding job related illness as a cause thereof. Labor

H-5558 DISABILITY BENEFITS (Malik & Others) This act would clarify the time period that municipal employees, police and firefighters have in which to apply for disability benefits. Labor

H-5670 CREDIT FOR MILITARY SERVICE (Kilmartin) This act would bring the state statute into conformance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA), Title 38 U.S. Code, Sections 4301 – 4333 (38 U.S.C. 4301 – 4333) as those sections apply to retirement or pension benefits. Finance

H-5676 OPTIONAL RETIREMENT: POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS (Pacheco & Others) This act would provide that any person who, from 1970 and thereafter, was a member of any call system within the state would be entitled to credit as service for the various purposes of the retirement system for one year for every 3 years served as a member of the call system. Finance

H-5687 REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED MEMBERS (Landroche) This act would allow retired firefighters and police officers to work unlimited number of days in the service of the system. Finance

H-5689 CRASH RESCUE CREW PERSONS (Pacheco) This act would allow crash rescue crewpersons to purchase credit for serving as volunteer firefighters, and create a twenty-year optional retirement. Finance

H-5691 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Kilmartin) This act would remove the prohibition that no employment may be offered to a retiree unless the employer has made a good faith effort each school year to fill the position with a nonretired employee without success. Finance

H-5830 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (Coderre & Others) This act would provide that retired municipal employees may be employed at a senior center or library on a part-time basis (20 hours total) without benefits. Finance

H-5844 PENSIONS (Kilmartin) This act would repeal the law that requires a municipality to report to the government accounting and standards board when it does not contribute 100% of annual required contribution to its pension plan(s). This act would also require any municipality which intends to contribute less than 100% of its pension contribution to obtain the preapproval of the auditor general. Finance

H-6038 POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT (McCauley) This act would permit members in the state retirement system who have retired from municipal employment to obtain post-retirement employment with the state without a suspension of retirement benefits. Finance

H-6355 PROCEDURE FOR SERVICE RETIREMENT (Crowley & Others) This act would change the retirement benefits for state employees and teachers. Finance

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS

H-5624 MORTGAGE RELEASES (Lewiss & Others) This act would establish a procedure by which mortgage releases that are improperly executed can be deemed valid. Judiciary

H-5634 PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE (Lewiss & Others) This act would permit an estate's representative to deny a claim against an estate in whole or in part. This act would further require probate court clerk, upon payment of the required fee, to issue a certificate of appointment of a voluntary administrator or executor. Judiciary

H-5660 PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO MARRY (Handy & Others) This act would broaden the definition of persons eligible to marry to include persons of the same gender. This act would also provide that members of the clergy would not be required to officiate at any particular marriage. Judiciary

H-5693 ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS (Kilmartin) This act would allow the Attorney General to initiate a complaint on behalf of the public interest pursuant to the inspection of a record of a public body. Judiciary

H-5701 PUBLIC RECORDS (Dennigan & Others) This act would modify the definition of public records in the open records law to prevent the disclosure of records that would constitute a clear unwarranted invasion of privacy or which are otherwise exempt pursuant to state law. Judiciary

H-5702 PUBLIC RECORDS (Dennigan & Others) This act would amend the access to public records law by expanding the circumstances when an award of

attorneys' fees may be made, and by mandating that most requests for the search and retrieval of public records be complied with within 3 days of the request. This act would also require the chief administrative officer of each agency to certify in writing to the Attorney General that all officers and employees have been trained regarding this chapter if they have the authority to grant or deny access to records. Judiciary

H-5932 MARKETABLE RECORD TITLE (Gorham) This act would clarify that any rights of purchase, lease, or reversion contained in any statutory condemnation provision of the general laws are subject to the Marketable Record Title Act. Judiciary

H-6158 MORTGAGE DISCHARGE (Jackson & Rice) This act would create an alternate method by which a mortgage discharge can be recorded using an affidavit. Judiciary

H-6338 PROBATE FEES (McCauley) This act would raise the fees for the filing of certain documents with a probate court. Judiciary

S-1009 PROBATE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE (Gibbs & Paiva-Weed) This act would require the executor, administrator or other estate fiduciary to mail within 90 days after admission to probate a notice to any corporation or association which is a devisee in a will, and said notice would be mailed by certified mail and the return receipt and an affidavit of notice must be filed in the probate court. Judiciary

MISCELLANEOUS

H-5511 CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIP (Menard & Others) This act would require municipalities to provide those services that are provided to single family residences to condominiums, or in the alternative to reimburse condominiums the cost of the services. Corporations

H-5545 ANIMAL CARE (Trillo) This act would prohibit the use of carbon monoxide or any other gas as euthanizing agents in the destruction of animals. Judiciary

H-5596 OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL (Moffitt & Others) This act would establish the Office of Inspector General as an independent administrative agency

charged with the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse, and mismanagement in the expenditure of public funds. Finance

H-5674 HEALTH CARE COVERAGE (Handy & Others) This act would require all Rhode Island employers of 24 or more workers to continue health care coverage for the families of those employees who are activated. Finance

H-5692 PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS (Kilmartin & Moura) This act would prohibit the state or municipality from awarding a contract for goods and services to be rendered or supplied by a vendor or contractor located outside the United States. Finance

H-5724 ANIMAL CARE (Lewiss & Others) This act would amend certain provisions of law relative to the method that monies collected from fines are spent. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5725 ANIMAL CARE (Lewiss & Others) This act would amend the provisions of the general laws in regard to the disposition of animals and the forfeiture of deposits. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5773 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE CORPORATIONS (Kennedy) This act would amend the powers of municipalities to jointly establish an insurance corporation. The act also would add provisions governing the meetings of such insurance corporations. Corporations

H-5779 COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (Kilmartin) This act would expand the duties of the commission of the Rhode Island Council on the Arts to include guidance to municipalities in the creation and implementation of arts districts. Finance

H-5837 CASINO GAMBLING (Landroche & Others) This act would prohibit casino gambling in certain locations, and would further provide that no casino gambling activity take place without the express approval by the lottery commission of the location. Finance

H-5928 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY ACT (Lima & Others) This act would create the Social Security Number Privacy Act, and would provide guidelines and penalties for violation. Judiciary

H-5929 RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION DEVICES (Lima & Others) This act would restrict the use of radio frequency identification devices for the

purpose of tracking the movement or identity of an employee, student or client as a condition of obtaining a benefit or services from such agency. Judiciary

H-5959 ANIMAL CARE (Lima & Gallison) This act would repeal the provisions of the general laws providing for the destruction of animals by carbon monoxide poisoning by any means of propulsion, and would provide an amendment to another provision of the general laws for disposal of animals by lethal injection only. Health, Education & Welfare

H-5991 REGULATION OF BOATS (Ehrhardt & Long) This act would require that the operator or owner of a boat, whose vessel is involved in an accident, casualty, vandalism or theft in excess of \$2,000, would give immediate notice to the Department of Environmental Management or to the local or state police. The current requirement is in excess of \$500. Environment & Natural Resources

H-6012 UNDERGROUND UTILITY CONTRACTORS (Williamson) This act would establish a licensing procedure for underground utility contractors engaged in the installation, repair, alteration or replacement of sewer lines, storm drainage lines or water lines and related services. Corporations

H-6043 OPEN CONTRACTING ACT (Almeida) This act would prohibit certain contract specifications issued by public bodies soliciting bids on public works projects. Finance

H-6082 HEALTHCARE (Singleton & Others) This act would prohibit any collective bargaining agreement that requires an employer to have a specific provider for a health care plan when covering groups of state employees, public school teachers, or employees of a city or town. Labor

H-6159 WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT (Malik & Others) This act would remove the exemption for Class C and D liquor license holders, would extend the effective date of the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act to September 1, 2005, and would also exempt charitable organizations from the act for the limited purpose of holding "cigar night"(s) fund raisers. Labor

H-6173 ALTERATION OF ROADWAYS (Long & Others) This act would require that any public safety concern which arises out of the alteration of a roadway be corrected within 30 days after receiving notice from the Department of Transportation. Joint Highway Safety

H-6181 "PUBLIC WORKS" DEFINED (Moura) This act would expand the definition of public works. Finance

H-6182 AWARD OF PUBLIC CONTRACTS (Moura) This act would impose certain requirements on any entity which disburses public money to subcontractors. Finance

H-6183 AIRPORTS (Long & McManus) This act would require the Airport Corporation to reimburse municipalities for the cost of municipal services provided at state airports. Finance

H-6219 GAMBLING ACTIVITIES (Faria & Others) This act would add sports pool to the definition of gambling activities. Finance

H-6242 MAINTENANCE OF STATE ROADS (Slater & Others) This act would provide that the General Assembly appropriate to the state and its municipalities sums sufficient to carry out the pavement management program and all other provisions in G.L. 24-8. Finance

H-6291 MAINTENANCE OF STATE ROADS (Giannini & Others) This act would provide that the General Assembly appropriate to the state and its municipalities sums sufficient to carry out the pavement management program and all other provisions found in G.L. 24-8. Finance

H-6321 WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT (Brien & Others) This act would remove the exemption for Class C and D liquor license holders, and would extend the effective date of the Public Health and Workplace Safety Act to June 1, 2005. Labor

H-6332 WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT (Malik & Others) This act would remove the exemption for Class C and D liquor license holders. Read & Passed

H-6343 GOVERNMENTAL TORT LIABILITY (McCauley) This act would extend the mandatory damage cap that is allowed against the state and municipalities to also include employees of the state and municipalities. Finance

H-6350 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (Malik & Others) This act would establish the "Casino Property Tax Relief Fund" with net casino gaming income providing direct property tax relief to the citizens of Rhode Island. Finance

H-6364 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES (Picard & Others) This act would allow the cities and towns in this state to create a municipal economic development zone within the city or town, and would direct that one-half of the

sales and use tax collected within the zone would be retained by the city or town to finance the development of the zone. Finance

S-1001 WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT (Sosnowski & Others) This act would remove the exemption for Class C and D liquor license holders. Health & Human Services